173. Disabilities of the Ezhavas and other backward classes.

MR. N. R. KRISHNAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that it was only very recently that the Government had begun to afford facilities for the education of the Ezhavas and other backward communities. As a first step in that direction, a large number of schools was thrown open to all classes of subjects during the regime of Dewan Sir P. Rajagopalachariar. The number of such schools was being increased year by year; but it was regrettable that there were still 17 schools to be thrown open to all classes of people. They too should be thrown open without any further delay. One of those schools was situated in the Capital itself. The reason for not throwing it open to all classes was that it was situated very near the Palace. But already there was a road between the Palace and the school open to all classes of people. There should therefore be no objection to the school being thrown open to all classes forthwith.

The member was aware that the Government were extending all sorts of possible concessions to all backward communities. But the full benefits intended by the Government were not being realised by the people. In the matter of granting half-fee concessions in schools, a committee consisting of the headmaster of the school, the local Tahsildar and the Assembly member for the taluk had to decide applications for such concessions. The backward communities were not deriving much benefit, because there was no representative of theirs on those committees. It would be desirable to appoint one more person, belonging to the community which was eligible for such concession, as a member of the committee.

The students of the backward communities were not receiving any of the numerous scholarships instituted by the Government. Some measures should be adopted for redressing the grievance in that respect.

Every individual subject of a State would have a natural desire to serve its Government. That one community should always dominate in the Government of a country could not be tolerated, except so long as the other communites were unfit to hold appointments under the Government. Many of the backward communities in Travancore were not duly represented in the public service. The principle of communal representation had been adopted elsewhere and it would be desirable to adopt it in Travancore also. In adopting that principle, the following suggestion would be worth considering, *viz*, to divide all appointments into two classes—those carrying a pay of Rs. 100 and below and those carrying a pay of above Rs. 100. In recruiting persons to the former class, the Government should reserve only one-third for the test of efficiency and remaining two-thirds for backward classes. His view had also been advocated by the *Samadarsi*.

Some *satrams* in the State were open to all classes, but others were not. The Government had ordered the construction of separate kitchens in some others. That should be done without further delay.

All public roads in the State should be thrown open to all classes of subjects.

There were only very few Ezhava members in the Legislative Council. Even those members were not bringing forward all problems connected with the community to the notice of the Council. It would therefore be very beneficial if special electorates be formed for the Ezhavas. The nominations to the existing Council were all confined to South Travancore. People from North Travancore also should be nominated in future.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Krishnan, your representation in the matter of schools and education is noted ; as also your representation in the matter of public institutions and of the public services generally. But I cannot allow one observation of yours to pass unnoticed, and that is that, in the case of appointments of Rs. 100 and below, Government should reserve only one-third for the test of efficiency and the remaining two-thirds for backwardness.

MEMBER : The Government may keep the minimum qualification.

DEWAN: I am afraid the supreme test for Government service must be efficiency and I am happy to say that there are a good many Ezhavas who have stood that test honourably and exceedingly well. I have no reason to doubt that

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

there will be still more Ezhavas who will be able to stand the test of efficiency. I should be very very sorry to see the Ezhava community coming into service on the ground of backwardness or on the sole test of minimum qualification.

In regard to nomination and election to the Legislative Council, you plead for a separate electorate. I can only draw your attention to what I have already said, that until the life of the present Council is over, I could not think of making a further experiment on the subject of the electorate and electoral systems.

174. Needs of the Parayas.

MR. KANDAN KUMARAN (*Member, Nominated*) prayed for the following concessions being granted to the Parayas in the matter of education :—

(1) The Paraya pupils studying in the English and Vernacular schools should be given noonday meals.

(2) There were only very few youths of the Paraya community who had passed the School Leaving Examination. But there were many who were literate. They should be provided with suitable appointments in the several departments under the Government.

(3) M. I. Tevi of the 6th class, Vernacular Middle School, Sastankotta and K. K. Gopalan of the 5th class, Vernacular Middle School, Kavur, in the Tevalakara *pakuthi*, should each be given a scholarship for a fixed period.

(4) The Paraya candidates appearing for the Vernacular School Leaving Examination should be exempted from payment of examination fees.

(5) Paraya candidates should be declared to have passed the examinations, even when they got a few marks below the prescribed minimum for each subject.

The member next said that the Parayas were a labouring class but that they were prevented from cutting *eetas* and rattan from the reserved forests for pursuing some cottage industry or other. There was also no work available for them since the outbreak of the late European war; and consequently, the Parayas had become poorer. The Government should therefore adopt some measures to alleviate their distress.

There was no law of succession and inheritance among the Parayas, and consequently, they were put to great inconvenience and difficulty. Some were following the *Makkattayi* law, others the *Marumakkattayi* law, while still some others were following the *Misradayi* law. In the absence of a uniform law of succession, there was no inducement for them to earn property. It was therefore necessary to apply some uniform law in the matter. The member thought it would be enough if the provisions of the Nayar Regulation were extended to the Parayas, the majority of whom were agreeable to such a course.

Lastly, the member prayed that Mr. Yohannan, the holder of School Leaving Certificate No. 2470 of 1100, should be given some appointment in the public service.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kandan Kumaran, as you know, the Parayas are already included among the depressed classes who are allowed full remission of fees both in English and Vernacular Schools.

They are also exempted from paying examination fees; and the question of a few special scholarships for them is now under correspondence with the Director of Public Instruction.

I am afraid it will not be possible to extend the Nayar Regulation to your community for purposes of succession and transmission of property. If you will form a small committee among yourselves and draw up a memorandum of your needs in that direction, I shall be very happy to have your proposals examined.

The other points you have taken up will be duly considered.

175. Concessions to the Parayas.

MR. KANDAN KUMARAN (*Member, Nominated*) made the following requests in the matter of registry of lands :—

(1) The Parayas had submitted applications for the concessional registry of lands in the several taluks at the rate of 3 acres for each family. But most of the applications had not yet been disposed of. They should be decided without further delay.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly